

93RD CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1579

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 9, 1973

Mr. HOWARD introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Post Office and Civil Service

A BILL

To protect the civilian employees of the executive branch of the United States Government in the enjoyment of their constitutional rights and to prevent unwarranted governmental invasions of their privacy.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 SECTION 1. It shall be unlawful for any officer of any
4 executive department or any executive agency of the United
5 States Government, or for any person acting or purporting
6 to act under his authority, to do any of the following things:

7 (a) To require or request, or to attempt to require or
8 request, any civilian employee of the United States serving
9 in the department or agency, or any person seeking employ-

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1 ment in the executive branch of the United States Govern-
2 ment, to disclose his race, religion or national origin, or
3 the race, religion, or national origin of any of his fore-
4 bears: *Provided, however,* That nothing contained in this
5 subsection shall be construed to prohibit inquiry concerning
6 the citizenship of any such employee or person if his citizen-
7 ship is a statutory condition of his obtaining or retaining his
8 employment: *Provided further,* That nothing contained in
9 this subsection shall be construed to prohibit inquiry concern-
10 ing the national origin or citizenship of any such employee or
11 person or of his forebears, when such inquiry is deemed
12 necessary or advisable to determine suitability for assignment
13 to activities or undertakings related to the national security
14 within the United States or to activities or undertakings of
15 any nature outside the United States.

16 (b) To state or intimate, or to attempt to state or inti-
17 mate, to any civilian employee of the United States serving
18 in the department or agency that any notice will be taken of
19 his attendance or lack of attendance at any assemblage, dis-
20 cussion, or lecture held or called by any officer of the execu-
21 tive branch of the United States Government, or by any per-
22 son acting or purporting to act under his authority, or by any
23 outside parties or organizations to advise, instruct, or in-
24 doctrinate any civilian employee of the United States serving
25 in the department or agency in respect to any matter or

1 subject other than the performance of official duties to which
2 he is or may be assigned in the department or agency, or
3 the development of skills, knowledge, or abilities which
4 qualify him for the performance of such duties: *Provided,*
5 *however,* That nothing contained in this subsection shall be
6 construed to prohibit taking notice of the participation of a
7 civilian employee in the activities of any professional group
8 or association.

9 (c) To acquire or request, or to attempt to require or
10 request, any civilian employee of the United States serving
11 in the department or agency to participate in any way in
12 any activities or undertakings unless such activities or under-
13 takings are related to the performance of official duties to
14 which he is or may be assigned in the department or agency,
15 or to the development of skills, knowledge, or abilities which
16 qualify him for the performance of such duties.

17 (d) To require or request, or to attempt to require
18 or request, any civilian employee of the United States serv-
19 ing in the department or agency to make any report con-
20 cerning any of his activities or misundertakings unless such
21 activities or undertakings are related to the performance of
22 official duties to which he is or may be assigned in the
23 department or agency, or to the development of skills, knowl-
24 edge, or abilities which qualify him for the performance of
25 such duties, or unless there is reason to believe that the

1 civilian employee is engaged in outside activities or employ-
2 ment in conflict with his official duties.

3 (e) To require or request, or to attempt to require or
4 request, any civilian employee of the United States serving
5 in the department or agency, or any person applying for
6 employment as a civilian employee in the executive branch
7 of the United States Government, to submit to any interroga-
8 tion or examination or to take any psychological test which
9 is designed to elicit from him information concerning his
10 personal relationship with any person connected with him
11 by blood or marriage, or concerning his religious belief or
12 practices, or concerning his attitude or conduct with respect
13 to sexual matters: *Provided, however, That nothing con-*
14 *tained in this subsection shall be construed to prevent*
15 *a physician from eliciting such information or authorizing*
16 *such tests in the diagnosis or treatment of any civilian*
17 *employee or applicant where such physician deems such*
18 *information necessary to enable him to determine whether*
19 *or not such individual is suffering from mental illness: Pro-*
20 *vided further, however, That this determination shall be made*
21 *in individual cases and not pursuant to general practice or*
22 *regulation governing the examination of employees or appli-*
23 *cants according to grade, agency, or duties: Provided further,*
24 *however, That nothing contained in this subsection shall be*
25 *construed to prohibit an officer of the department or agency*

1 from advising any civilian employee or applicant of a specific
2 charge of sexual misconduct made against that person, and
3 affording him an opportunity to refute the charge.

4 (f) To require or request, or attempt to require or
5 request, any civilian employee of the United States serving
6 in the department or agency, or any person applying for
7 employment as a civilian employee in the executive branch
8 of the United States Government, to take any polygraph
9 test designed to elicit from him information concerning his
10 personal relationship with any person connected with him
11 by blood or marriage, or concerning his religious beliefs or
12 practices, or concerning his attitude or conduct with respect
13 to sexual matters.

14 (g) To require or request, or to attempt to require
15 or request, any civilian employee of the United States serving
16 in the department or agency to support by personal endeavor
17 or contribution of money or any other thing of value the
18 nomination or the election of any person or group of persons
19 to public office in the Government of the United States or of
20 any State, district, Commonwealth, territory, or possession
21 of the United States, or to attend any meeting held to pro-
22 mote or support the activities or undertakings of any political
23 party of the United States or of any State, district, Common-
24 wealth, territory, or possession of the United States.

25 (h) To coerce or attempt to coerce any civilian

1 employee of the United States serving in the department or
2 agency to invest his earnings in bonds or other obligations
3 or securities issued by the United States or any of its depart-
4 ments or agencies, or to make donations to any institution
5 or cause of any kind: *Provided, however,* That nothing con-
6 tained in this subsection shall be construed to prohibit any
7 officer of any executive department or any executive agency
8 of the United States Government, or any person acting or
9 purporting to act under his authority, from calling meetings
10 and taking any action appropriate to afford any civilian em-
11 ployee of the United States the opportunity voluntarily to
12 invest his earnings in bonds or other obligations or securities
13 issued by the United States or any of its departments or
14 agencies; or voluntarily to make donations to any institution
15 or cause.

16 (i) To require or request, or to attempt to require
17 or request, any civilian employee of the United States
18 serving in the department or agency to disclose any items
19 of his property, income, or other assets, source of income,
20 or liabilities, or his personal or domestic expenditures or
21 those of any member of his family or household: *Provided,*
22 *however,* That this subsection shall not apply to any civilian
23 employee who has authority to make any final determination
24 with respect to the tax or other liability of any person, cor-
25 poration, or other legal entity to the United States, or

1 claims which require expenditure of moneys of the United
2 States: *Provided further, however,* That nothing contained
3 in this subsection shall prohibit the Department of the
4 Treasury or any other executive department or agency of
5 the United States Government from requiring any civilian
6 employee of the United States to make such reports as may
7 be necessary or appropriate for the determination of his
8 liability for taxes, tariffs, custom duties, or other obliga-
9 tions imposed by law.

10 (j) To require or request, or to attempt to require
11 or request, any civilian employee of the United States
12 embraced within the terms of the proviso in subsection
13 (i) to disclose any items of his property, income, or
14 other assets, source of income, or liabilities, or his personal
15 or domestic expenditures or those of any member of his
16 family or household other than specific items tending to
17 indicate a conflict of interest in respect to the perform-
18 ance of any of the official duties to which he is or may be
19 assigned.

20 (k) To require or request, or to attempt to require or
21 request, any civilian employee of the United States serving
22 in the department or agency, who is under investigation for
23 misconduct, to submit to interrogation which could lead to
24 disciplinary action without the presence of counsel or other
25 person of his choice, if he so requests: *Provided, however,*

1 That a civilian employee of the United States serving in the
2 Central Intelligence Agency or the National Security Agency
3 or the Federal Bureau of Investigation may be accompanied
4 only by a person of his choice who serves in the agency in
5 which the employee serves, or by counsel who has been
6 approved by the agency for access to the information
7 involved.

8 (1) To discharge, discipline, demote, deny promotion
9 to, relocate, reassign, or otherwise discriminate in regard to
10 any term or condition of employment of, any civilian em-
11 ployee of the United States serving in the department or
12 agency, or to threaten to commit any of such acts, by reason
13 of the refusal or failure of such employee to submit to or
14 comply with any requirement, request, or action made un-
15 lawful by this Act, or by reason of the exercise by such
16 civilian employee of any right granted or secured by this
17 Act.

18 SEC. 2. It shall be unlawful for any officer of the United
19 States Civil Service Commission, or for any person acting
20 or purporting to act under his authority, to do any of the
21 following things:

22 (a) To require or request, or to attempt to require or
23 request, any executive department or any executive agency
24 of the United States Government, or any officer or employee

1 serving in such department or agency, to violate any of the
2 provisions of section 1 of this Act.

3 (b) To require or request, or to attempt to require or
4 request, any person seeking to establish civil service status
5 or eligibility for employment in the executive branch of the
6 United States Government, or any person applying for em-
7 ployment in the executive branch of the United States Gov-
8 ernment, or any civilian employee of the United States
9 serving in any department or agency of the United States
10 Government, to submit to any interrogation or examination
11 or to take any psychological test which is designed to elicit
12 from him information concerning his personal relationship
13 with any person connected with him by blood or marriage,
14 or concerning his religious beliefs or practices, or concerning
15 his attitude or conduct with respect to sexual matters: *Pro-*
16 *vided, however,* That nothing contained in this subsection
17 shall be construed to prevent a physician from eliciting such
18 information or authorizing such tests in the diagnosis or
19 treatment of any civilian employee or applicant where such
20 physician deems such information necessary to enable him
21 to determine whether or not such individual is suffering
22 from mental illness: *Provided further, however,* That this
23 determination shall be made in individual cases and not pur-
24 suant to general practice or regulation governing the exami-

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1 nation of employees or applicants according to grade, agency,
2 or duties: *Provided further, however,* That nothing contained
3 in this subsection shall be construed to prohibit an officer of
4 the Civil Service Commission from advising any civilian
5 employee or applicant of a specific charge of sexual miscon-
6 duct made against that person, and affording him an oppor-
7 tunity to refute the charge.

8 (c) To require or request, or to attempt to require
9 or request, any person seeking to establish civil service
10 status or eligibility for employment in the executive branch
11 of the United States Government, or any person applying
12 for employment in the executive branch of the United States
13 Government, or any civilian employee of the United States
14 serving in any department or agency of the United States
15 Government, to take any polygraph test designed to elicit
16 from him information concerning his personal relationship
17 with any person connected with him by blood or marriage,
18 or concerning his religious beliefs or practices, or concerning
19 his attitude or conduct with respect to sexual matters.

20 SEC. 3. It shall be unlawful for any commissioned officer,
21 as defined in section 101 of title 10, United States Code, or
22 any member of the Armed Forces acting or purporting to
23 act under his authority, to require or request, or to attempt
24 to require or request, any civilian employee of the executive
25 branch of the United States Government under his authority

1 or subject to his supervision to perform any of the acts or
2 submit to any of the requirements made unlawful by section
3 1 of this Act.

4 SEC. 4. Whenever any officer of any executive depart-
5 ment or any executive agency of the United States Gov-
6 ernment, or any person acting or purporting to act under his
7 authority, or any commissioned officer as defined in section
8 101 of title 10, United States Code, or any member of the
9 Armed Forces acting or purporting to act under his author-
10 ity, violates or threatens to violate any of the provisions of
11 section 1, 2, or 3 of this Act, any civilian employee of the
12 United States serving in any department or agency of the
13 United States Government, or any person applying for
14 employment in the executive branch of the United States
15 Government, or any person seeking to establish civil service
16 status or eligibility for employment in the executive branch
17 of the United States Government, affected or aggrieved by
18 the violation or threatened violation, may bring a civil action
19 in his own behalf or in behalf of himself and others
20 similarly situated, against the offending officer or person in
21 the United States district court for the district in which the
22 violation occurs or is threatened, or the district in which the
23 offending officer or person is found, or in the United States
24 District Court for the District of Columbia, to prevent
25 the threatened violation or to obtain redress against the

1 consequences of the violation. The Attorney General shall
2 defend all officers or persons sued under this section
3 who acted pursuant to an order, regulation, or directive,
4 or who, in his opinion, did not willfully violate the
5 provisions of this Act. Such United States district court
6 shall have jurisdiction to try and determine such civil action
7 irrespective of the actuality or amount of pecuniary injury
8 done or threatened, and without regard to whether the
9 aggrieved party shall have exhausted any administrative
10 remedies that may be provided by law, and to issue such
11 restraining order, interlocutory injunction, permanent in-
12 junction, or mandatory injunction, or enter such other judg-
13 ment or decree as may be necessary or appropriate to prevent
14 the threatened violation, or to afford the plaintiff and others
15 similarly situated complete relief against the consequences of
16 the violation. With the written consent of any person
17 affected or aggrieved by a violation or threatened violation
18 of section 1, 2, or 3 of this Act, any employee organization
19 may bring such action on behalf of such person, or may
20 intervene in such action. For the purposes of this section,
21 employee organizations shall be construed to include any
22 brotherhood, council, federation, organization, union, or pro-
23 fessional association made up in whole or in part of civilian
24 employees of the United States and which has as one of its
25 purposes dealing with departments, agencies, commissions,

1 and independent agencies of the United States concerning
2 the condition and terms of employment of such employees.

3 SEC. 5. (a) There is hereby established a Board on
4 Employees' Rights (hereinafter referred to as the "Board").
5 The Board shall be composed of three members, appointed
6 by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the
7 Senate. The President shall designate one member as chair-
8 man. No more than two members of the Board may be of
9 the same political party. No member of the Board shall be
10 an officer or employee of the United States Government.

11 (b) The term of office of each member of the Board
12 shall be five years, except that (1) of those members first
13 appointed, one shall serve for five years, one for three years,
14 and one for one year, respectively, from the date of enact-
15 ment of this Act, and (2) any member appointed to fill
16 a vacancy occurring prior to the expiration of the term for
17 which his predecessor was appointed shall be appointed for
18 the remainder of such term.

19 (c) Members of the Board shall be compensated at the
20 rate of \$75 a day for each day spent in the work of the
21 Board, and shall be paid actual travel expenses and per
22 diem in lieu of subsistence expenses when away from their
23 usual places of residence, as authorized by section 5703 of
24 title 5, United States Code.

1 (d) Two members shall constitute a quorum for the
2 transaction of business.

3 (e) The Board may appoint and fix the compensation
4 of such officers, attorneys, and employees, and make such
5 expenditures, as may be necessary to carry out its functions.

6 (f) The Board shall make such rules and regulations
7 as shall be necessary and proper to carry out its functions.

8 (g) The Board shall have the authority and duty to
9 receive and investigate written complaints from or on be-
10 half of any person claiming to be affected or aggrieved by
11 any violation or threatened violation of this Act and to con-
12 duct a hearing on each such complaint. Within ten days
13 after the receipt of any such complaint, the Board shall
14 furnish notice of the time, place, and nature of the hearing
15 thereon to all interested parties. The Board shall render
16 its final decision with respect to any complaint within thirty
17 days after the conclusion of its hearing thereon.

18 (h) Officers or representatives of any Federal employee
19 organization in any degree concerned with employment of
20 the category in which any alleged violation of this Act
21 occurred or is threatened shall be given an opportunity to
22 participate in each hearing conducted under this section,
23 through submission of written data, views, or arguments,
24 and in the discretion of the Board, with opportunity for oral
25 presentation. Government employees called upon by any

1 party or by any Federal employee organization to participate
2 in any phase of any administrative or judicial proceeding
3 under this section shall be free to do so without incurring
4 travel cost or suffering loss in leave or pay; and all such em-
5 ployees shall be free from restraint, coercion, interference,
6 intimidation, or reprisal in or because of their participation.
7 Any periods of time spent by Government employees during
8 such participation shall be held and considered to be Federal
9 employment for all purposes.

10 (i) Insofar as consistent with the purposes of this sec-
11 tion, the provisions of subchapter II of chapter 5 of title 5,
12 United States Code, relating to the furnishing of notice and
13 manner of conducting agency hearings, shall be applicable
14 to hearings conducted by the Board under this section.

15 (j) If the Board shall determine after hearing that a
16 violation of this Act has not occurred or is not threatened,
17 the Board shall state its determination and notify all inter-
18 ested parties of such determination. Each such determina-
19 tion shall constitute a final decision of the Board for pur-
20 poses of judicial review.

21 (k) If the Board shall determine that any violation
22 of this Act has been committed or threatened by any civil-
23 ian officer or employee of the United States, the Board shall
24 immediately (1) issue and cause to be served on such of-
25 ficer or employee an order requiring such officer or employee

1 to cease and desist from the unlawful act or practice which
2 constitutes a violation, (2) endeavor to eliminate any such
3 unlawful act or practice by informal methods of conference,
4 conciliation, and persuasion, and (3) may—

5 (A) (i) in the case of the first offense by any
6 civilian officer or employee of the United States, other
7 than any officer appointed by the President, by and with
8 the advice and consent of the Senate, issue an official
9 reprimand against such officer or employee or order the
10 suspension without pay of such officer or employee from
11 the position or office held by him for a period of not to
12 exceed fifteen days, and (ii) in the case of a second
13 or subsequent offense by any such officer or employee,
14 order the suspension without pay of such officer or em-
15 ployee from the position or office held by him for a
16 period of not to exceed thirty days, or order the removal
17 of such officer or employee from such position or office;
18 and

19 (B) in the case of any offense by any officer ap-
20 pointed by the President, by and with the advice and
21 consent of the Senate, transmit a report concerning such
22 violation to the President and the Congress.

23 (1) If the Board shall determine that any violation
24 of this Act has been committed or threatened by any officer
25 of any of the Armed Forces of the United States, or any

1 person purporting to act under authority conferred by such
2 officer, the Board shall (1) submit a report thereon to the
3 President, the Congress, and the Secretary of the military
4 department concerned, (2) endeavor to eliminate any un-
5 lawful act or practice which constitutes such a violation by
6 informal methods of conference, conciliation, and persuasion,
7 and (3) refer its determination and the record in the case
8 to any person authorized to convene general courts-martial
9 under section 822 (article 22) of title 10, United States
10 Code. Thereupon such person shall take immediate steps
11 to dispose of the matter under chapter 47 of title 10, United
12 States Code (Uniform Code of Military Justice).

13 (m) Any party aggrieved by any final determination
14 or order of the Board may institute, in the district court of
15 the United States for the judicial district wherein the viola-
16 tion or threatened violation of this Act occurred, or in the
17 United States District Court for the District of Columbia,
18 a civil action for the review of such determination or order.
19 In any such action, the court shall have jurisdiction to (1)
20 affirm, modify, or set aside any determination or order made
21 by the Board which is under review, or (2) require the
22 Board to make any determination or order which it is author-
23 ized to make under subsection (k), but which it has refused
24 to make. The reviewing court shall set aside any finding,
25 conclusion, determination, or order of the Board as to which

1 complaint is made which is unsupported by substantial evi-
2 dence on the record considered as a whole.

3 (n) The Board shall submit, not later than March 31
4 of each year, to the Senate and House of Representatives,
5 respectively, a report on its activities under this section dur-
6 ing the immediately preceding calendar year, including a
7 statement concerning the nature of all complaints filed with
8 it, its determinations and orders resulting from hearings
9 thereon, and the names of all officers or employees of the
10 United States with respect to whom any penalties have been
11 imposed under this section.

12 (o) There are authorized to be appropriated sums nec-
13 essary, not in excess of \$100,000, to carry out the provisions
14 of this section.

15 SEC. 6. Nothing contained in this Act shall be construed
16 to prohibit an officer of the Central Intelligence Agency or
17 of the National Security Agency or of the Federal Bureau of
18 Investigation from requesting any civilian employee or appli-
19 cant to take a polygraph test, or to take a psychological test,
20 designed to elicit from him information concerning his per-
21 sonal relationship with any person connected with him by
22 blood or marriage, or concerning his religious beliefs or prac-
23 tices, or concerning his attitude or conduct with respect to
24 sexual matters, or to provide a personal financial statement; if
25 the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency or his desig-

1 nee or the Director of the National Security Agency or his
2 designee or the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investiga-
3 tion or his designee makes a personal finding with regard to
4 each individual to be so tested or examined that such test or
5 information is required to protect the national security.

6 SEC. 7. Nothing in this Act shall be construed to affect
7 in any way the authority of the Directors of the Central
8 Intelligence Agency or the National Security Agency or the
9 Federal Bureau of Investigation to protect or withhold infor-
10 mation pursuant to statute or executive order. The personal
11 certification by the Director of the agency that disclosure of
12 any information is inconsistent with the provision of any stat-
13 ute or executive order shall be conclusive and no such infor-
14 mation shall be admissible in evidence in any interrogation
15 under section 1 (k) or in any civil action under section 4 or
16 in any proceeding or civil action under section 5.

17 SEC. 8. Nothing contained in sections 4 and 5 shall
18 by construed to prevent establishment of department and
19 agency grievance procedures to enforce this Act, but the
20 existence of such procedures shall not preclude any applicant
21 or employee from pursuing the remedies established by this
22 Act or any other remedies provided by law: *Provided,*
23 *however,* That if under the procedures established, the em-
24 ployee or applicant has obtained complete protection against

1 threatened violations or complete redress for violations, such
2 action may be pleaded in bar in the United States district
3 court or in proceedings before the Board on Employee
4 Rights: *And provided further*, That if an employee elects
5 to seek a remedy under either section 4 or section 5, he
6 waives his right to proceed by an independent action under
7 the remaining section.

8 SEC. 9. If any provision of this Act or the application
9 of any provision to any person or circumstance shall be held
10 invalid, the remainder of this Act or the application of such
11 provision to persons or circumstances other than those as to
12 which it is held invalid, shall not be affected.

98th CONGRESS
1st Session

H. R. 1579

A BILL

To protect the civilian employees of the executive branch of the United States Government in the enjoyment of their constitutional rights and to prevent unwarranted governmental invasions of their privacy.

By Mr. Howard

JANUARY 9, 1973

Referred to the Committee on Post Office and Civil Service